

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 7, and 13 as follows:

1. (Amended) An improved applanation lens for use in an interface between a patient's eye and a surgical laser system that does not discolor or lose light transmittance when subjected to gamma radiation, said improved applanation lens comprising:

[a.] a lens having an applanation surface configured to contact the eye [and applanate or flatten the anterior surface of the eye upon application of a pressure,]said lens being formed of high purity [silicone] silicon dioxide (SiO₂).

7. (Amended) An interface, adapted to couple a patient's eye to a surgical laser, the interface comprising:

a. an attachment apparatus adapted to overlay the anterior surface of an eye and for stable engagement to the eye;

b. an applanation lens adapted to be mounted on the attachment apparatus, said applanation lens having an applanation surface configured to contact the eye [and applanate or flatten the anterior surface of the eye upon application of a pressure,]said surface being bounded by a plane and coupled to a delivery tip of the surgical laser such that the delivery tip is referenced to the plane; and

c. said applanation lens being formed of high purity SiO₂.

13. (Amended) A method for applanating an anterior surface of a patient's eye and coupling the eye to a surgical laser, the method comprising the steps of:

a. providing an interface, the interface including a central orifice, and having top and bottom surfaces;

b. removably coupling a suction ring to the bottom surface of the interface; positioning the interface over an operative area of an eye, such that the suction ring comes into proximate contact with the surface of the eye;

c. applying a suction to the suction ring to thereby stabilize the position of the interface relative to the operative area of the eye;

d. positioning an applanation lens in proximate contact with the operative area of the eye, said applanation lens having an applanation surface configured to contact the eye [and applanate or flatten the anterior surface of the eye upon application of a pressure,]said applanation lens being formed of high purity SiO_2 ; and

e. coupling the applanation lens to the interface to thereby stabilize the position of the lens relative to the operative area of the eye.